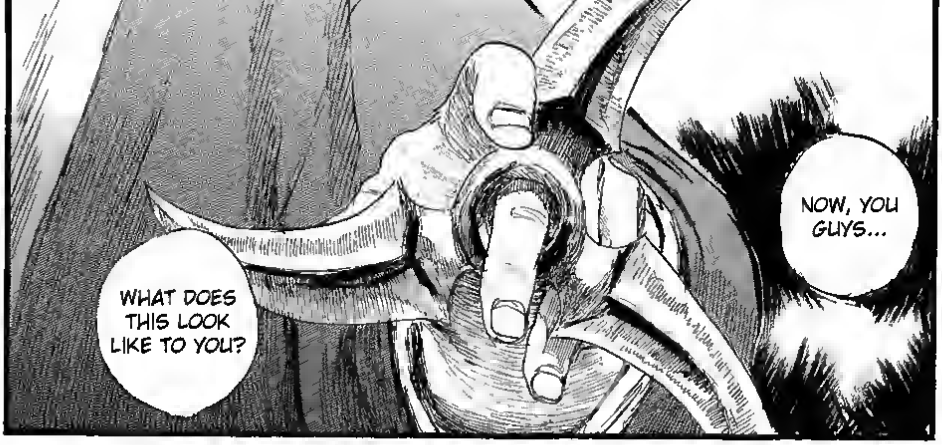
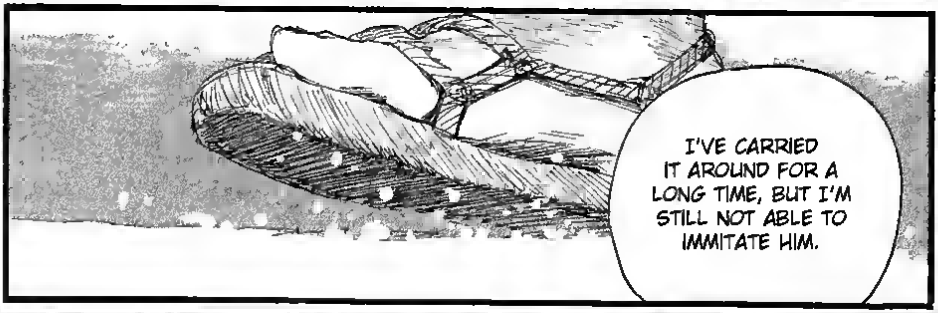
❖The 189th Chapter❖

A Crowd of Spirits


NOW, YOU GUYS...
WHAT DOES THIS LOOK LIKE TO YOU?

NO MATTER HOW YOU LOOK AT IT, IT'S A SHURIKEN, RIGHT?
BY THE WAY... A LONG TIME AGO, THERE WAS A JOKE OF A SWORDSMAN WHO USED THESE TO BISECT PEOPLE.


I'VE CARRIED IT AROUND FOR A LONG TIME, BUT I'M STILL NOT ABLE TO IMMITATE HIM.

THOSE ITTOU-RYUU GUYS ARE LIKE A WALKING JOKE...

HEY, HEY, HEY.
REALLY NOW...
WHAT ARE YOU SAYING!?
HOW TROUBLE-SOME...
...I SUPPOSE THERE'S NO WAY I CAN AVOID THIS?
I DON'T THINK I'VE DONE ANYTHING WRONG... KAH HA HA HA!
BUT, IF THAT HOLE IN YOUR LEFT EYE HAS HEALED UP, THAT'S ALL THAT MATTERS.
YOU REALLY HURT ME, TALKING LIKE THAT
KILLING AS AN OFFERING TO MURDERED PRISONERS... RIGHT, MY LORD?
MAYBE YOU COULD HAVE AVOIDED IT, BUT YOU DIDN'T, JUST TO BE NICE?
OR ELSE...

I'VE BEEN LOOKING FOR YOU FOR A WHILE.
HEH HEH...
I GUESS THIS TIME IT'S NOT A CASE OF MISTAKEN IDENTITY.
YOU'RE THE TWO FROM THAT TIME...

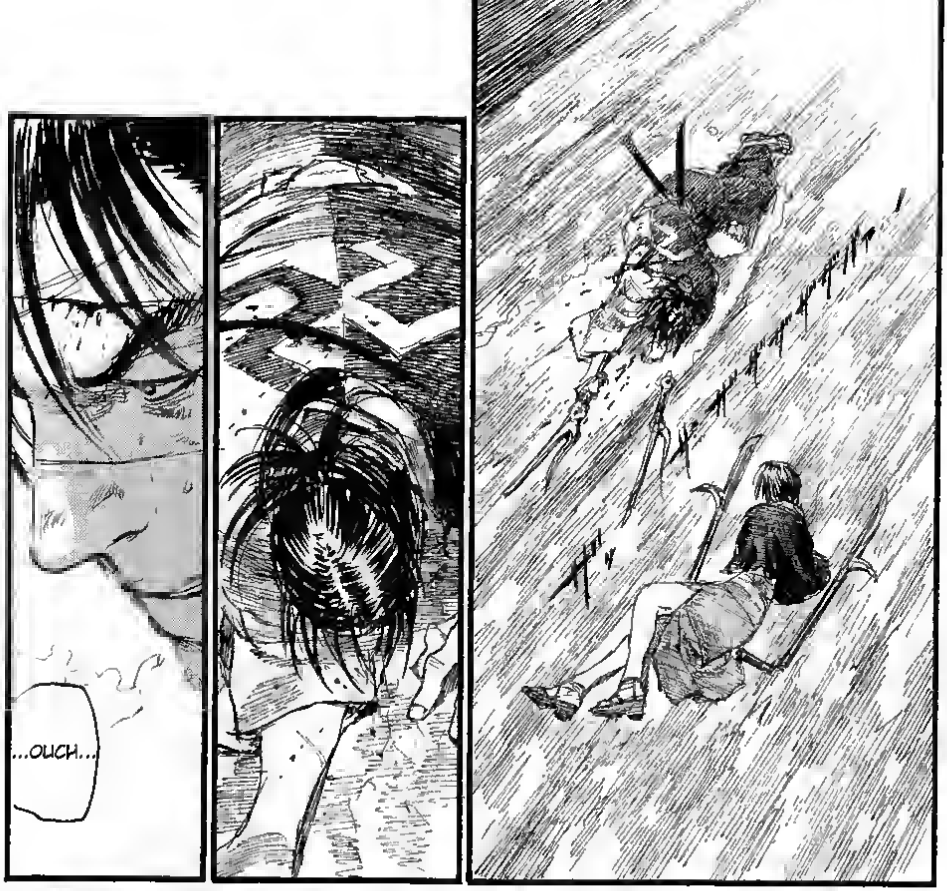
REALLY, YOU GUYS...
ACTING LIKE THIS WITH SUCH AN EASY OPPONENT...
YOU LOOKED LIKE YOU WERE SHAKING IN FRONT OF THAT WOMAN.
YOU'RE "SMALL FRY" ALL THE WAY TO YOUR CORE.
ゴーッ!
ア!

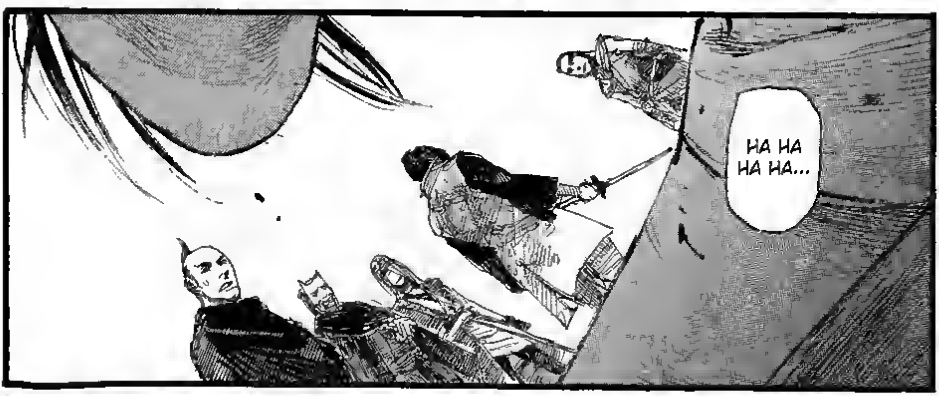
KAAHHH
哮!!

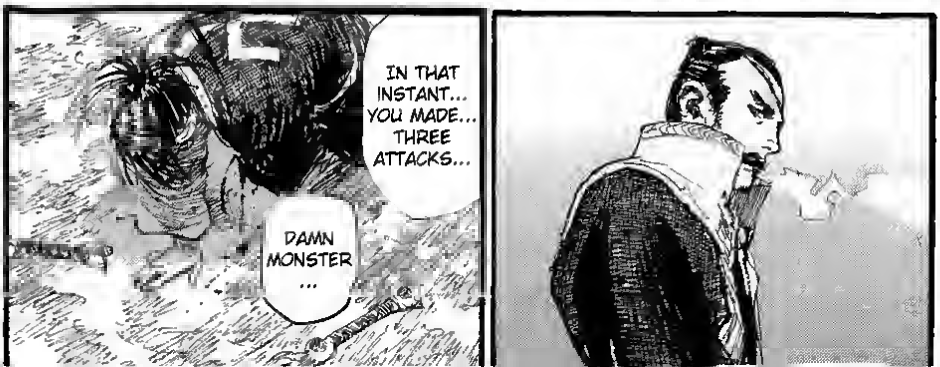
YOU WERE WEARING SOMETHING PRETTY HARD...
SHIT.
OOWWW!
KUAH!

!!
...SCARY...
KAH HA HA HA HAH!
ヒョオオ

AAA
N-
OLD MAN!


...OUCH...


HA HA
HA HA...


IN THAT
INSTANT...
YOU MADE...
THREE
ATTACKS...
DAMN
MONSTER
...

... AS EXPECTED...
?...

THAT HAIRPIN WASN'T JUST A FLUKE.

I HAVEN'T SEEN YOU IN SUCH A MESS SINCE THE TIME WE FIRST MET.
YO...

BY THE WAY, HOW'S KAGEHISA DOING?
I HAVE A STRANGE FEELING THAT HE GOT HERE BEFORE I DID...
.....
WHAT A PAIN.
IF HE'S HERE... I HAVE BUSINESS WITH HIM.
AND I WAS PLANNING TO STEP IN FOR YOU, TOO...
.....?

オオーーン

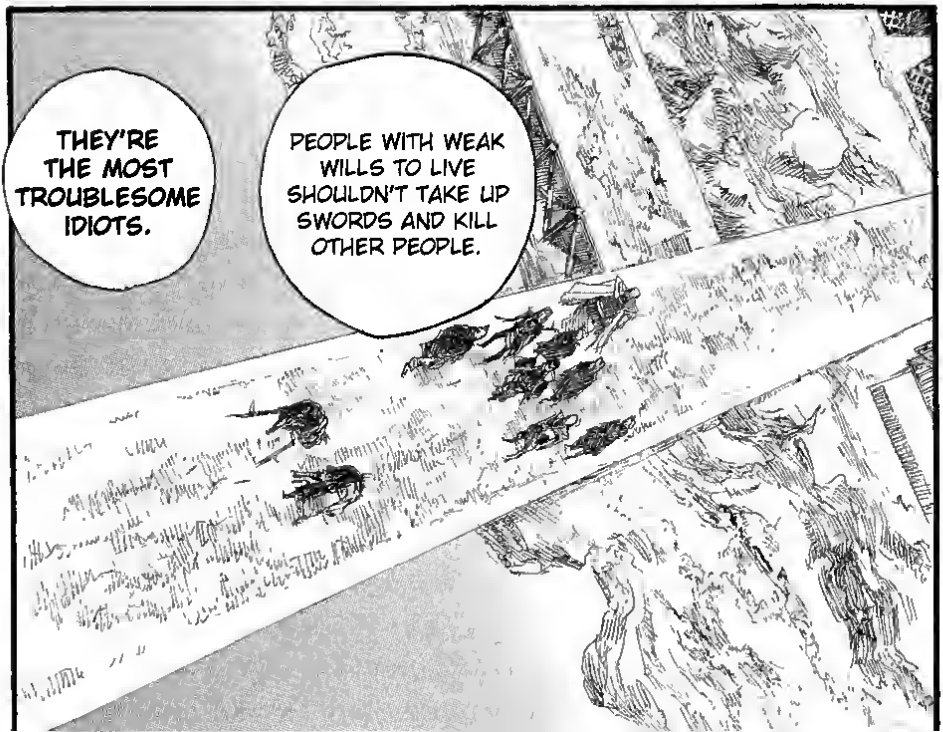
ごくん
ちゅん!
...AREN'T YOU AFRAID OF TUBERCULOSIS...?
FOR ME, IT'S NOTHING TO BE AFRAID OF.
JUST NOW...

I BROKE UP SOME MEDICINE I GOT FROM A FRIEND I MET ON MY TRAVELS AND MIXED IT IN.
IT'S CALLED...
IN THE WATER... THERE WAS SOME-THING...

ASAEMON GAN.

YOU'RE MORE IMPORTANT THAN SOME DEAD GUY.
BUT, WHAT DOES THAT MATTER?
YEAH, HUMAN LIVER.
...HUMAN LIVER...

IT'S MY LEAST FAVORITE THING ABOUT YOU.
WHENEVER I SEE YOU
YOUR EYES LOOK AS IF YOU DON'T CARE WHEN YOU DIE.

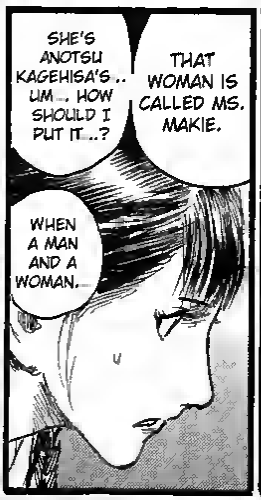

THEY'RE THE MOST TROUBLESOME IDIOTS.
PEOPLE WITH WEAK WILLS TO LIVE SHOULDN'T TAKE UP SWORDS AND KILL OTHER PEOPLE.

ザッ
ザッ
ザッ
!!
...WHY... DID YOU...?
I DIDN'T DO IT OUT OF A SENSE OF DUTY... I JUST SAW YOU LYING THERE HALF-DEAD.
I DIDN'T REALLY HAVE ANY RESON TO SAVE YOU.

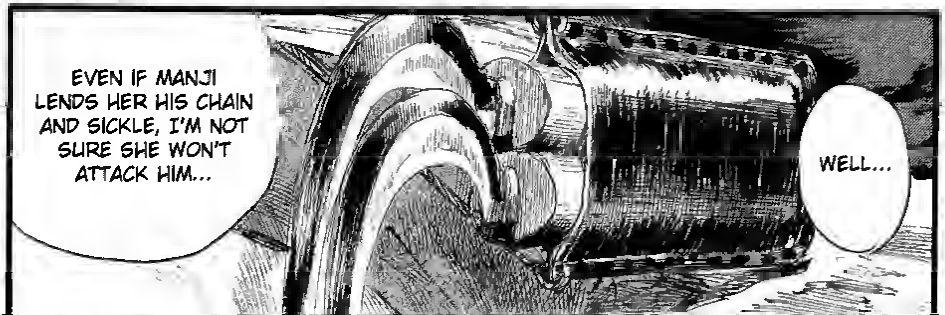
I'VE GOT A VERY DIFFERENT FEELING ABOUT YOU THAN I DO ABOUT THE REST OF THE ITTOU-RYUU.
WAS BEING REALLY LOUD, TELLING ME TO GO SAVE YOU.
WELL, THAT KID...

...THANK GOOD-NESS.
HE MADE IT IN TIME...

PLEASE STOP, MR. GIICHI.


SHE'S ANOTSU KAGEHISA'S .. UM... HOW SHOULD I PUT IT...?
THAT WOMAN IS CALLED MS. MAKIE.
WHEN A MAN AND A WOMAN...

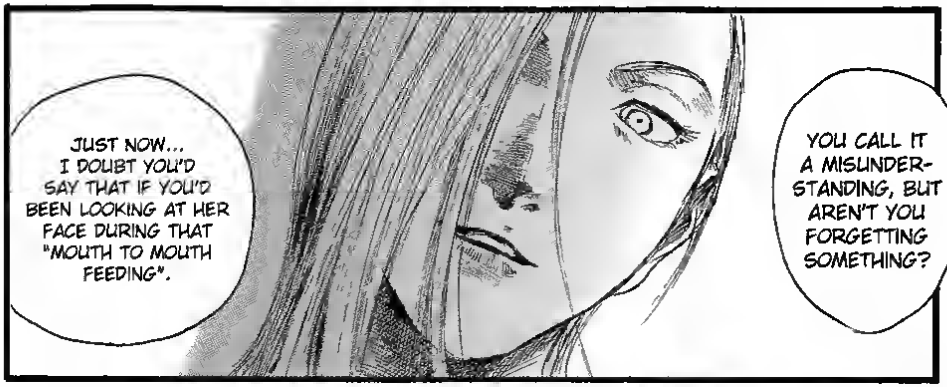
BUT... ISN'T IT A PROBLEM TO HAVE THAT WOMAN AROUND?
THE REAL REASON WE CAME HERE IS TO KILL THE ITTOU-RYUU, AFTER ALL.


EVEN IF MANJI LENDS HER HIS CHAIN AND SICKLE, I'M NOT SURE SHE WON'T ATTACK HIM...
WELL...

IF ANOTSU KAGEHISA JOINS THEM DOWN THERE, I REALLY WON'T KNOW WHAT TO DO.
THE HABAKI KAGIMURA I KNOW COULDN'T BE INTIMIDATED BY THAT.
EVEN IF SHE SAYS SHE'S JOINED MANJI,
IT'S STILL TOO SOON TO TELL.
"ホゲッ"
EVEN IF YOU GO DOWN THERE, WHAT WILL YOU DO?
...IF THAT'S NOT ENOUGH, WHY DON'T YOU JUST STAY HERE AND WAIT?
I'M GOING DOWN THERE.
HUH!? WAI... WAIT A MINUTE.
MS. HYA-KURIN.
EVEN THOUGH I'VE BEEN SAVED BY MR. MANJI COUNTLESS TIMES UNTIL NOW...

TODAY...
I'VE SAVED HIM MANY TIMES AS WELL.
IF I CAN DO IT, I THINK WE CAN END THINGS!
WHAT IS THAT GIRL TALKING ABOUT?
I'M GOING.
SHE'S THAT KIND OF GIRL.
...SHE'S TRYING TO GIVE MANJI A PROPER PLACE TO DIE.
TALKING ABOUT SAVING SOMEONE WHO DOESN'T NEED SAVING.
I GUESS SHE'S WORRIED ABOUT MANJI AFTER ALL.

IT SEEMS LIKE SHE MISUNDERSTANDS THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN A BODYGUARD AND HIS EMPLOYER.
OF COURSE, SHE'S DIVING INTO THAT DEATH HERSELF AS WELL.


JUST NOW... I DOUBT YOU'D SAY THAT IF YOU'D BEEN LOOKING AT HER FACE DURING THAT "MOUTH TO MOUTH FEEDING".
YOU CALL IT A MISUNDER-STANDING, BUT AREN'T YOU FORGETTING SOMETHING?

THEY'RE JUST LIKE AN OLDER BROTHER AND YOUNGER SISTER, BUT...
I FEEL LIKE A CHANGE MIGHT BE COMING.

ッスウウウ
ウウウ‥
ハアアァ‥

Kachin

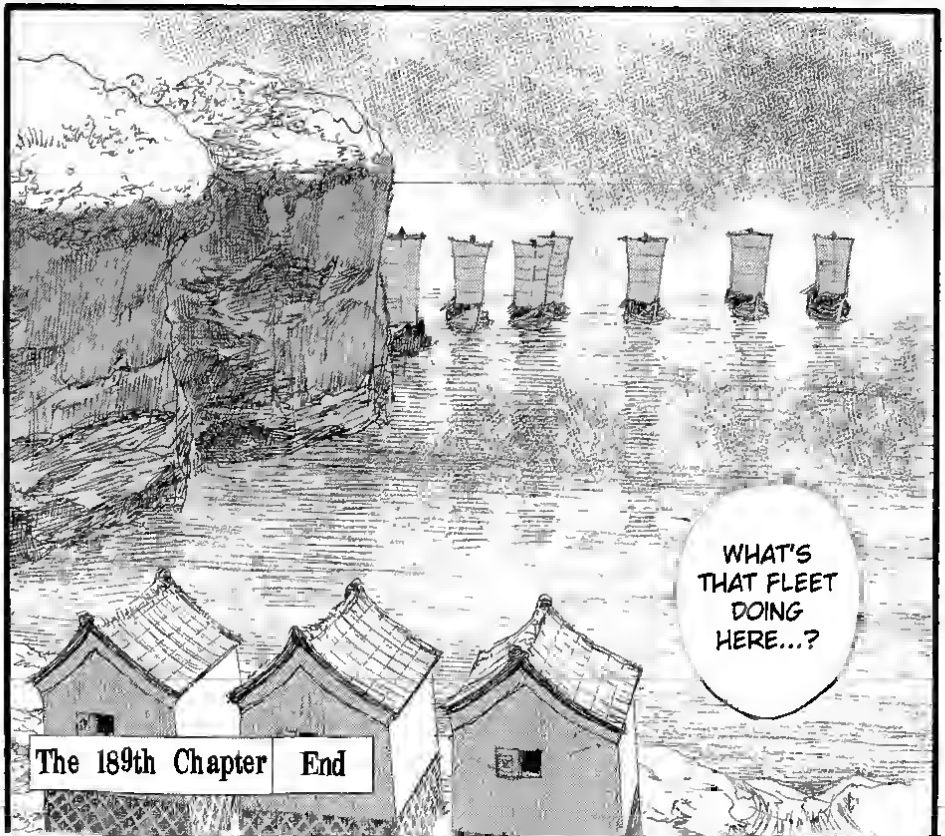
SEX BETWEEN A MAN AND A WOMAN.
...WHAT DID YOU JUST DO?
DON'T GET ANGRY.
YOU SEE... THIS STUFF IS NORMALLY RIDICULOUSLY EXPENSIVE...

I WAS ABLE TO GET MY HANDS ON IT RIDICULOUSLY CHEAP.
BUT, THANKS TO SOME DEAD GUY UNDERGROUND...

剣

WAIT A SE-COND...
WHAT ARE YOU LOOKING AWAY FOR? ...HEY!!

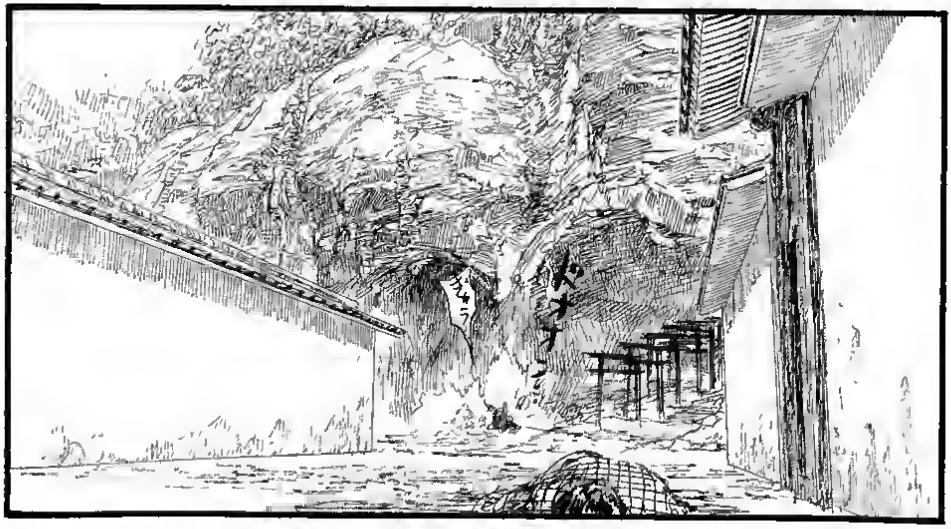
HM !?
WHA...
?


WHAT'S THAT FLEET DOING HERE...?
The 189th Chapter End

❖The 190th Chapter❖

Firing Wildly at the Sky

WAH-
WAA-
HHH...



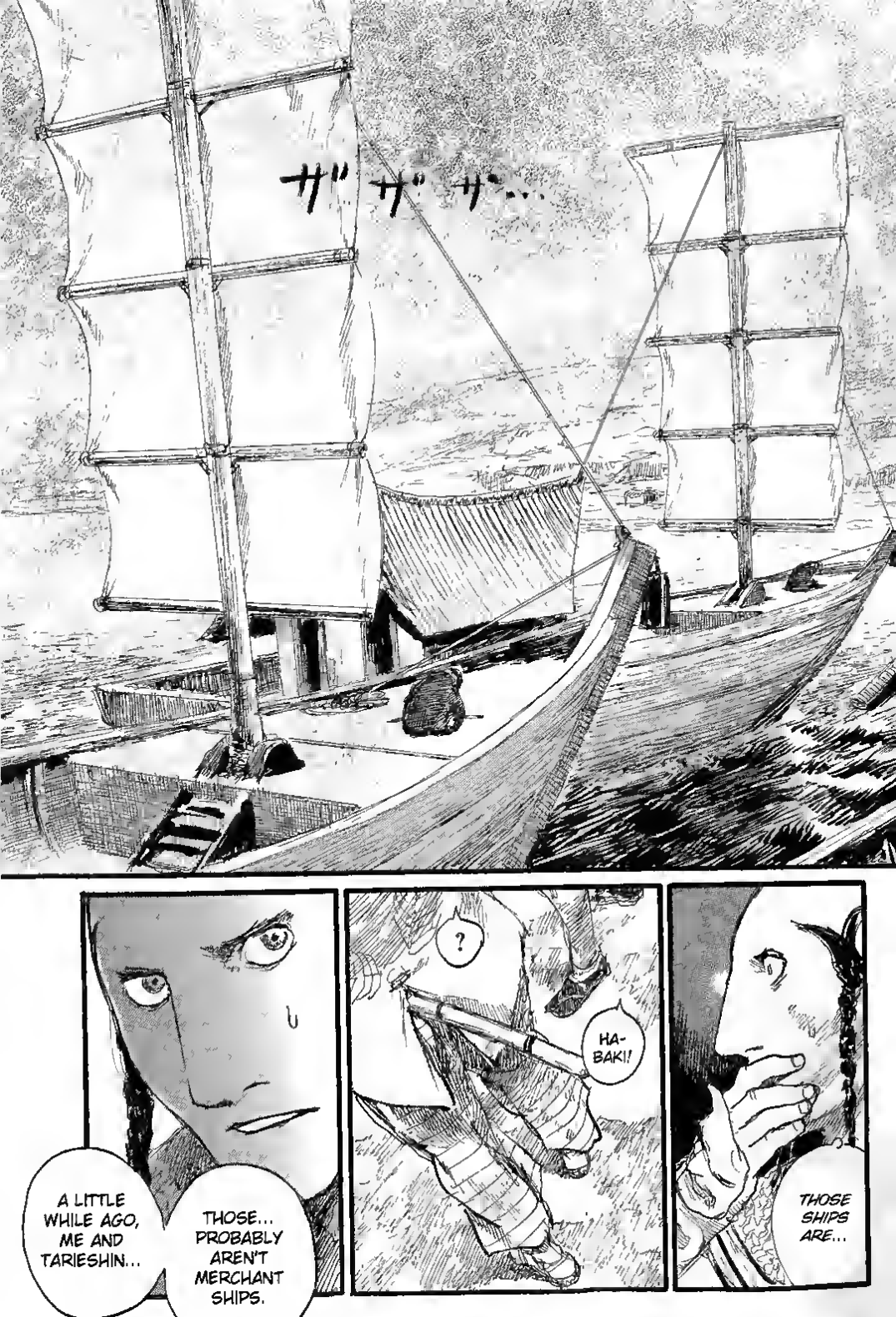
...OOWWWW...

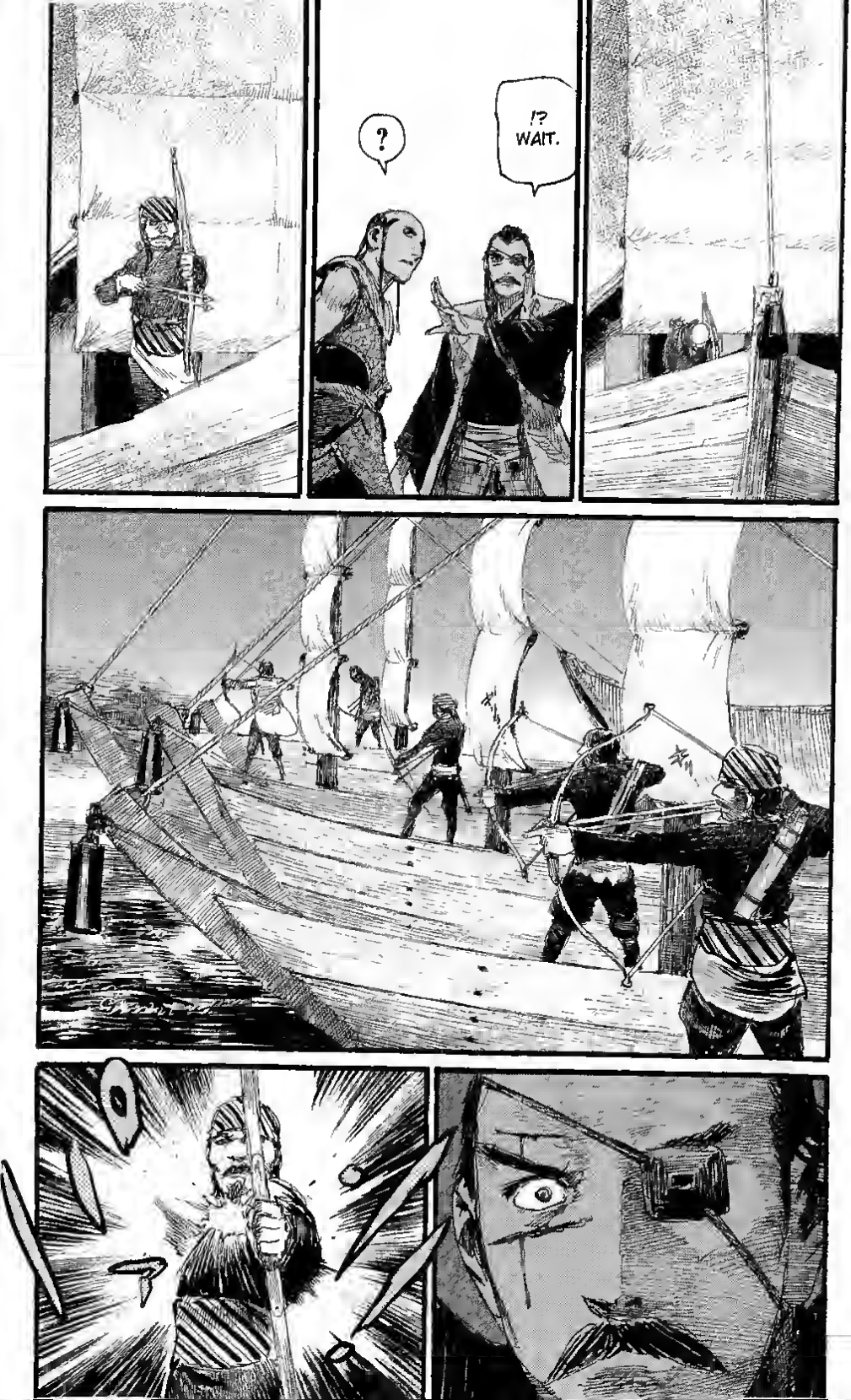
...HUH?
KUU-HHH ...!
TH!

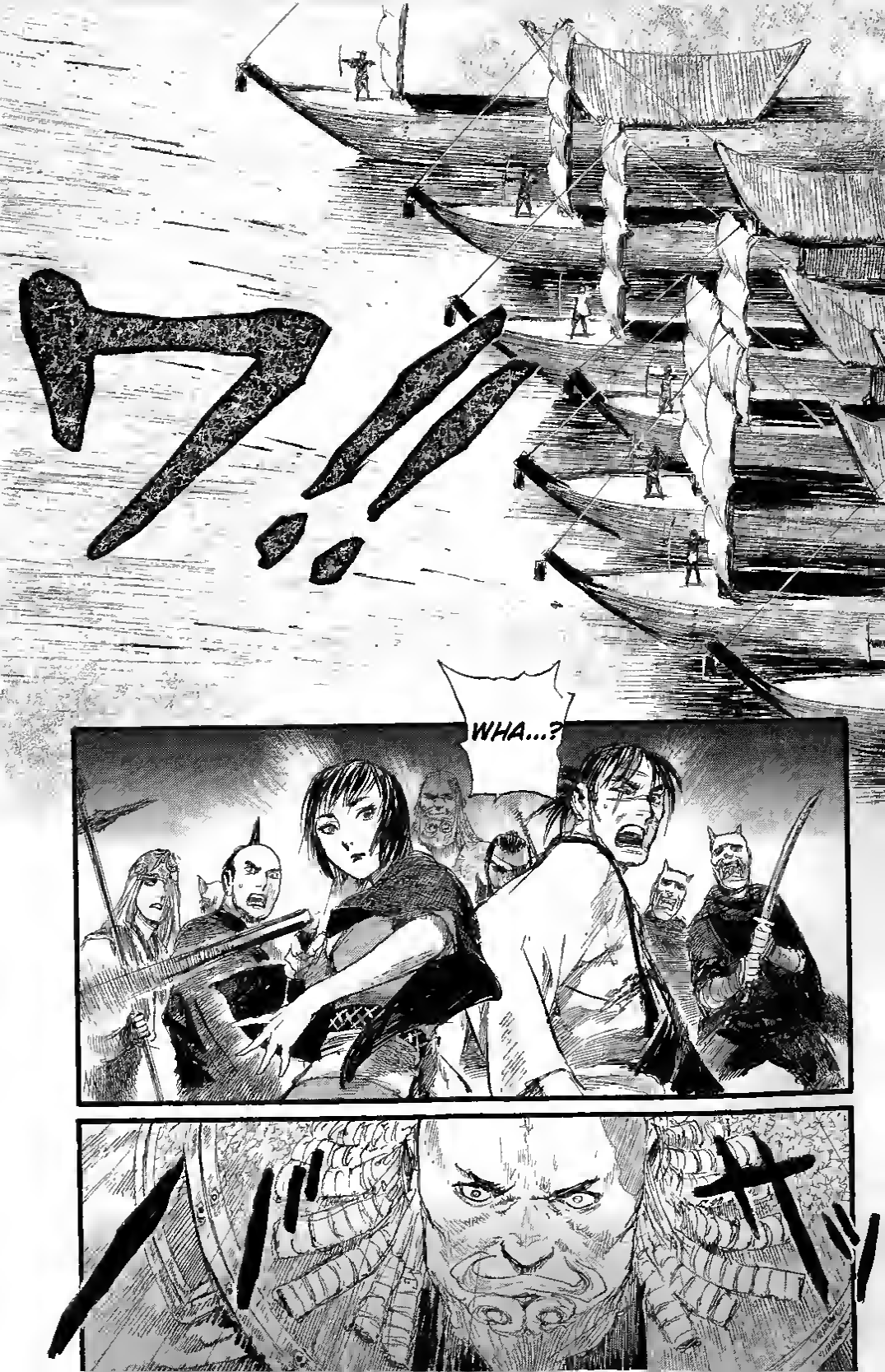
Yeh die
THAT'S STRANGE... WHAT'S EVERYONE DOING?

THEY'RE ALL LOOKING OUT TO SEA...?

MERCHANT VESSELS...? I'VE NEVER SEEN SHIPS LIKE THAT BEFORE...


ザ… ザ… ザ…
A LITTLE WHILE AGO, ME AND TARIESHIN...
THOSE... PROBABLY AREN'T MERCHANT SHIPS.
?
HA-BAK!!
THOSE SHIPS ARE...


?
!?
WAIT.


WHA...?

HIII-EEE-HHH-HHH!
OW...!

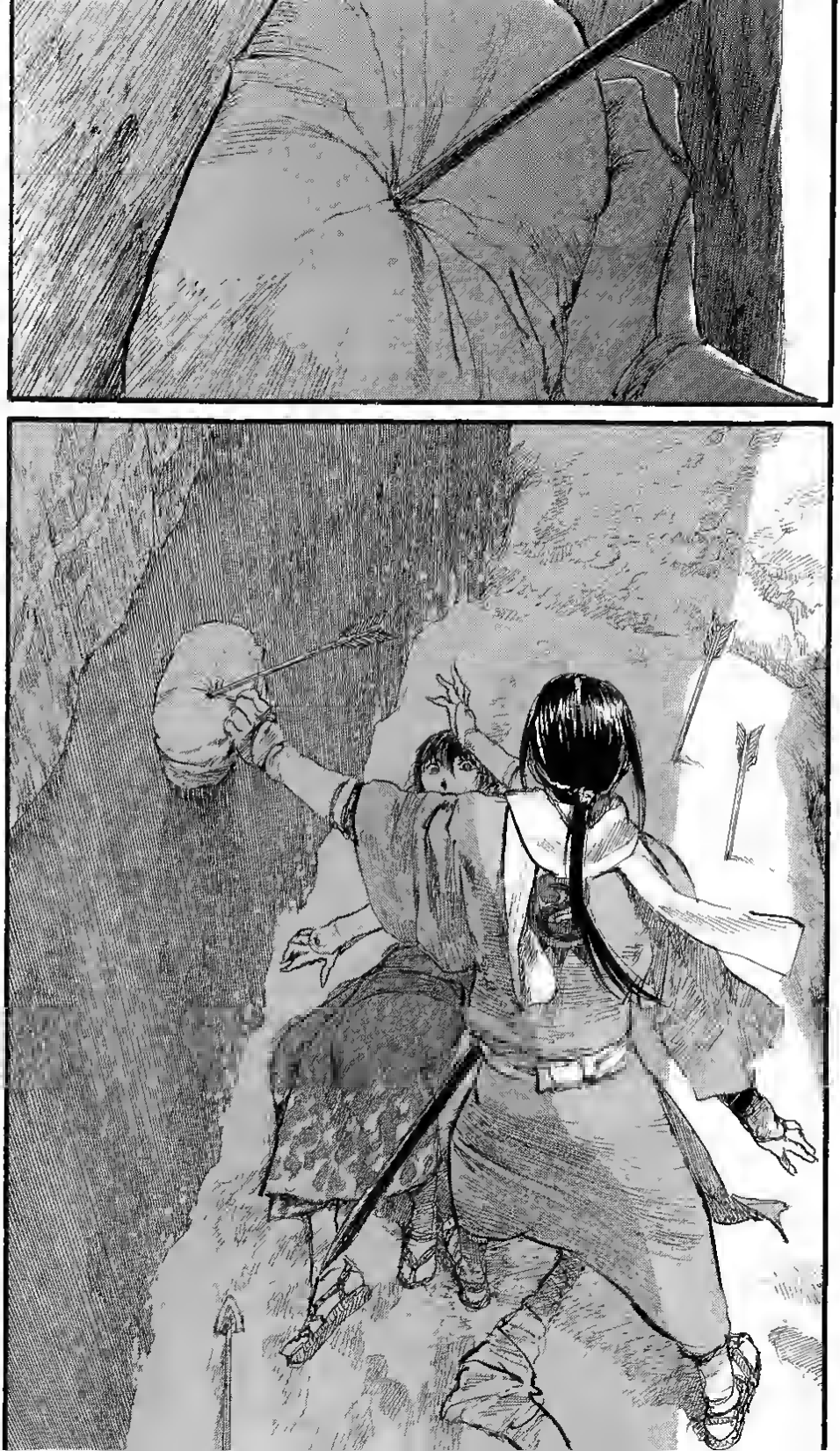
EVERY-
ONE, RUN
FOR THE
SHORE.
...THIS WAY
OF DOING
THINGS...

MR. MANJI!
YEAH!?
?
ぶす!
HUH? THEN...
OW, THAT HURTS!
I DIDN'T SAY ANYTHING.
DID YOU CALL ME JUST NOW!?

...HUH?
M... MR. MANJI.
カタ...
HAHH ...
HAHH ...
HUHH!? WHERE ARE YOU ALL GOING...?
HE... HEY.

WAAAHHHH
HIEH...
HIH!
TAH...
TAH...

WHAT... WHAT'S GOING ON!?
WA... WAIT.
BU-HEH!
AAAHHHHH



...STAND UP QUICKLY.
...?
ARE YOUR LEGS INJURED?
AH... AH... AN...
WAH...

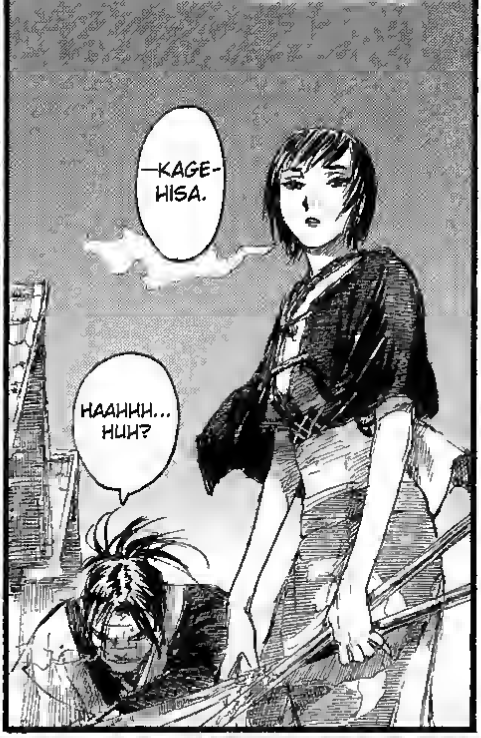
THEY'VE BEEN ORDERED TO KEEP FIRING UNTIL THE PEOPLE ON SHORE, THE CREWS OF SHIPS UNLOADING CARGO, AND ANYONE ELSE IN THE AREA EXCEPT FOR ME IS WIPED OUT.
SPLIT UP WITH THEM AND COME WITH ME.
.....

SORRY... COULD YOU BE A LITTLE MORE CAREFUL?
...IT DOESN'T REALLY MATTER.

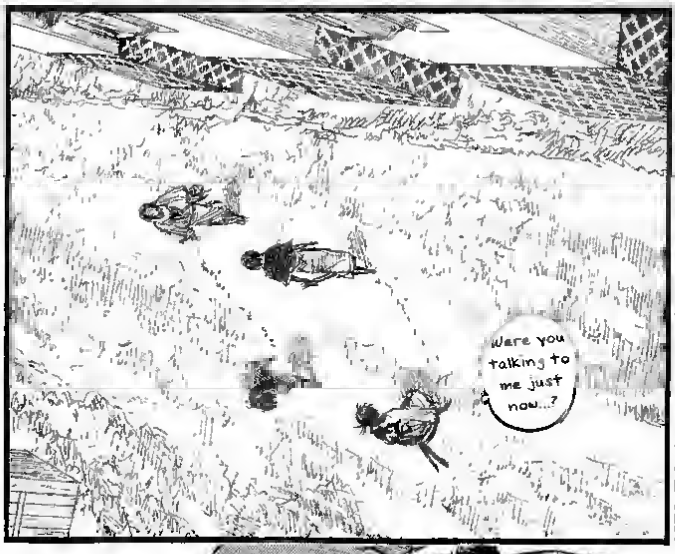
NUO-WAH!
At least tell me when you're going to do it!

MR. MANJI...
MAKIE...

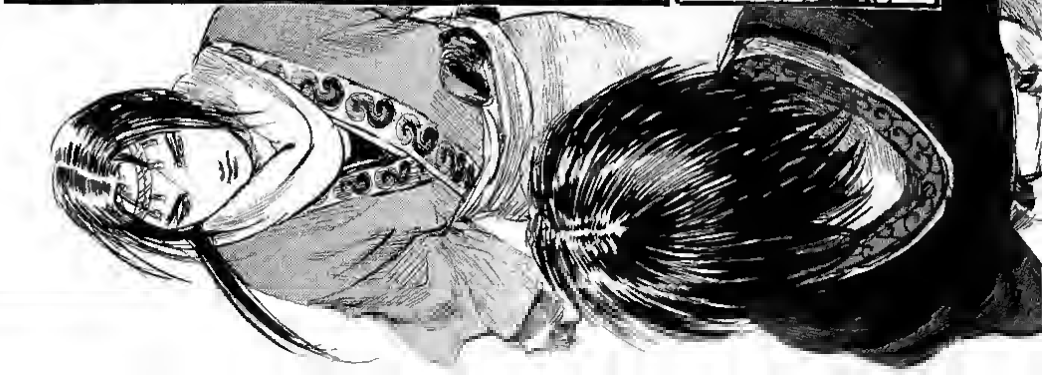
WHY DID YOU COME DOWN HERE, YOU IDIOT?
AH! RIN, YOU...


—KAGE-HISA.
HAAHHH... HUH?

I HAVEN'T SEEN YOU SINCE SUWA, HUNDRED-MAN-SLAYER


Were you talking to me just now...?

AAHHH... HUH!?
AAHHH... OHH...



—I...
WHO WOULD CHASE AFTER A WOMAN ALL THE WAY TO SHI-RAKAWA.
I HAVE NO RESON TO CRITICIZE SOMEONE
...MY DEAR...

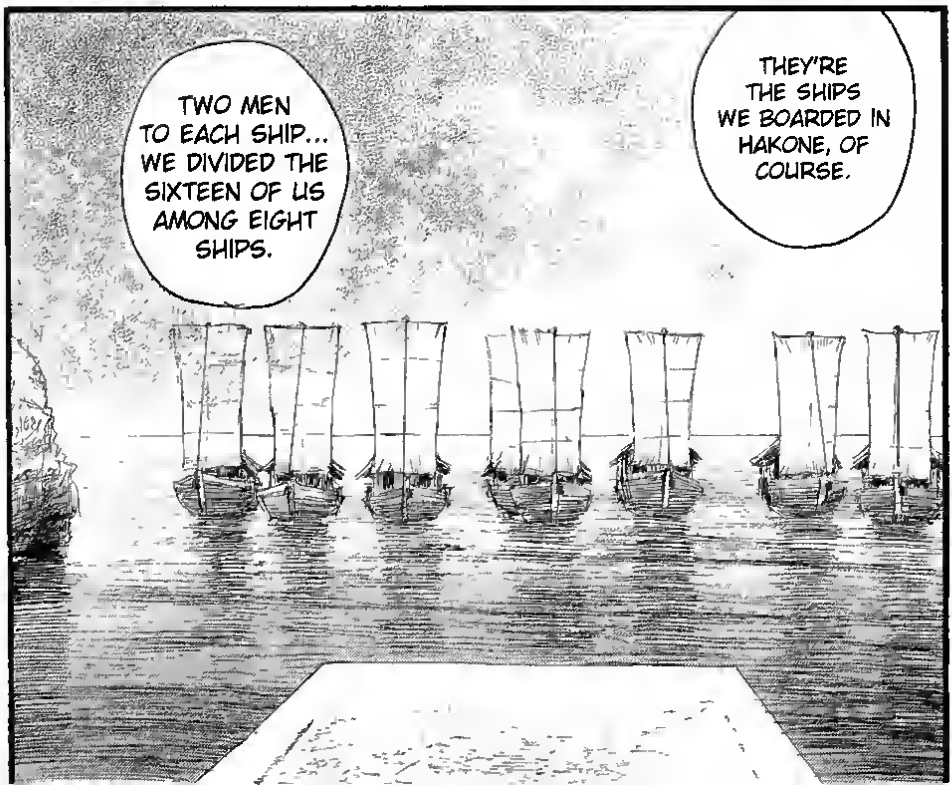
EVEN THOUGH I'VE RUN AWAY FROM YOU
MANY, MANY TIMES UNTIL NOW...
I FINALLY UNDERSTAND.
...AS LONG AS YOU UNDERSTAND, IT'S FINE.
IT'S REALLY IRRITATING... TO HAVE SOMEONE RUN AWAY FROM YOU.
KAGE-HISAA-HHH!!
ANO-TSU

THIS IS LORD HABAKI.
THAT'S AN OUTRAGEOUS THING TO SAY TO SOMEONE YOU HAVEN'T COME TO SEE IN SUCH A LONG TIME.
WHAT HAVE YOU BEEN DOING UNTIL NOW?

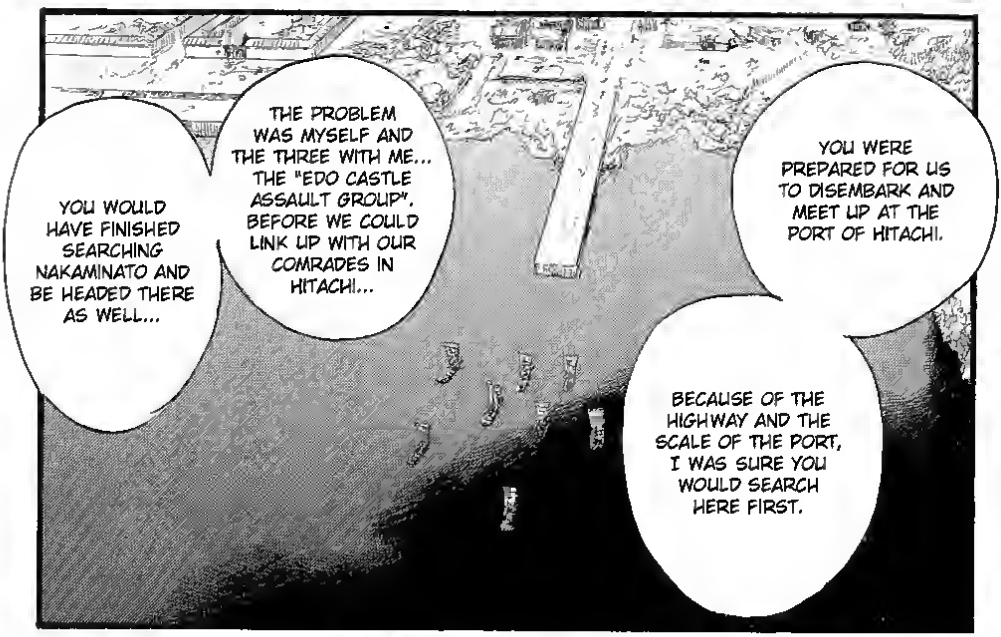
SO I REALLY COULDN'T DO MUCH OF ANYTHING.
ALONG THE WAY, YOU HAD YOUR SUBORDINATES KILL ALL THE HORSES WE HAD HIRED.

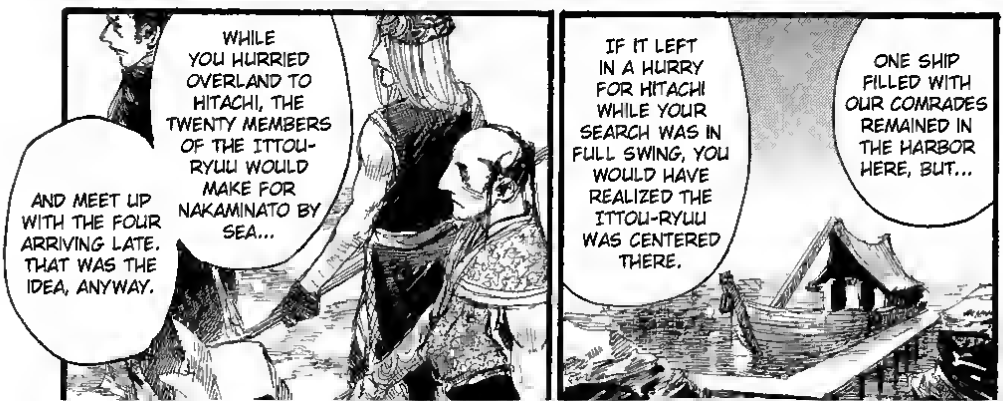
WHAT ARE THOSE SHIPS?

.....


TWO MEN TO EACH SHIP... WE DIVIDED THE SIXTEEN OF US AMONG EIGHT SHIPS.
THEY'RE THE SHIPS WE BOARDED IN HAKONE, OF COURSE.

EIGHT SHIPS...
IF WE SPLIT UP LIKE THIS
EVEN IF YOU EXPECTED A SHIP, THE CHANCE OF US BEING WIPED OUT DECREASES.
AT THE SAME TIME... EVEN IF YOU WEREN'T PREPARED FOR EIGHT SHIPS


YOU WERE PREPARED FOR US TO DISEMBARK AND MEET UP AT THE PORT OF HITACHI.
THE PROBLEM WAS MYSELF AND THE THREE WITH ME... THE "EDO CASTLE ASSAULT GROUP". BEFORE WE COULD LINK UP WITH OUR COMRADES IN HITACHI...
YOU WOULD HAVE FINISHED SEARCHING NAKAMINATO AND BE HEADED THERE AS WELL...
BECAUSE OF THE HIGHWAY AND THE SCALE OF THE PORT, I WAS SURE YOU WOULD SEARCH HERE FIRST.


ONE SHIP FILLED WITH OUR COMRADES REMAINED IN THE HARBOR HERE, BUT...
IF IT LEFT IN A HURRY FOR HITACHI WHILE YOUR SEARCH WAS IN FULL SWING, YOU WOULD HAVE REALIZED THE ITTOU-RYUU WAS CENTERED THERE.
WHILE YOU HURRIED OVERLAND TO HITACHI, THE TWENTY MEMBERS OF THE ITTOU-RYUU WOULD MAKE FOR NAKAMINATO BY SEA...
AND MEET UP WITH THE FOUR ARRIVING LATE. THAT WAS THE IDEA, ANYWAY.

WAS ASSUMING THAT MY COMPANIONS SURVIVED...
ALL OF THAT...
WELL... THERE'S REALLY NO POINT IN DISCUSSING WHAT I INTENDED TO DO IN SO MUCH DETAIL.
THIS WILL BE THE END FOR US.
HABAKI KAGIMURA.

The 190th Chapter End

❖ The 191st Chapter ❖

Nirvana

THIS WILL BE THE END FOR YOU AND ME.
HABAKI KAGIMURA.

YOU COULD HAVE JUST ESCAPED TO HITACHI BY BOAT ON YOUR OWN.
HOW FOOLISH... IF YOU KNEW THAT YOUR COMRADES HAD BEEN KILLED,
EVEN IF YOU HAVE THEM ALL LINED UP AND IN ORDER
STILL... EIGHT SHIPS?
GOING OUT OF YOUR WAY TO COME HERE...
FOR GOING TO LINK UP WITH MY GRANDFATHER.
THOSE SHIPS ARE...
IT'S A BIT EMBARASSING, BUT I DON'T HAVE THE POWER TO DO IT ON MY OWN.
WHAT CAN YOU POSSIBLY DO WITH JUST THAT MANY?
EVEN IF THEY'RE A BIT DIFFERENT FROM NORMAL BEZAIS...

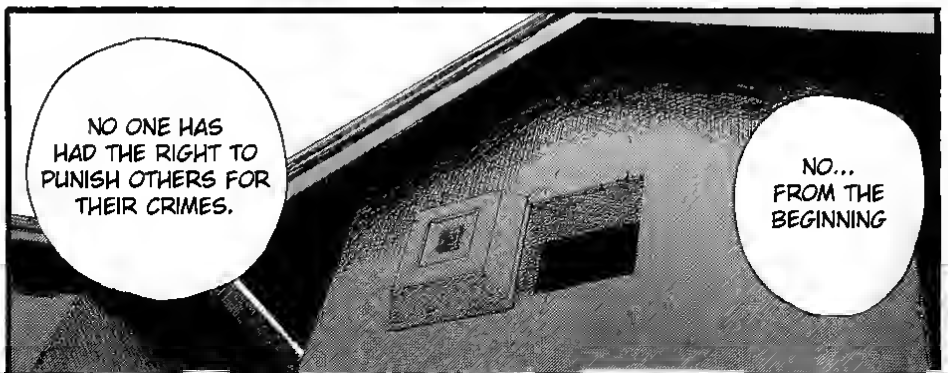
WHAT!?
?
YOU BASTARD...
THEN, THOSE SHIPS ARE...!
OH... SO YOU KNOW ABOUT MY GRANDFATHER.

THEN, FROM THE BEGINNING, YOU NEVER INTENDED TO GO TO SATSUMA...!?
I SEE...
!?
REGARDLESS OF APPEARANCES, WE REALLY WERE PLANNING TO FLEE.
LORD HABAKI...
THE REBIRTH OF THE SWORD... WE WERE UNABLE TO CAUSE THE REBIRTH OF THE SAMURAI CODE.
AFTER ALL, THE ITTOU-RYUU IS...

IF A DISTURBANCE WHICH THREATENS THIS ENTIRE COUNTRY WERE TO OCCUR, ANOTHER GROUP LIKE US WILL CERTAINLY ARISE.
BUT, THERE IS AN EVEN GREATER THREAT THAN THAT...
BEFORE LONG, PEOPLE WILL PROBABLY FORGET ALL ABOUT US.
BEFORE LONG, A THREAT WILL APPEAR... THAT IS WHAT I THINK.
WHEREVER WE EVENTUALLY END UP, WE'LL BUILD A TOWN AND RAISE CHILDREN... WE WILL TEACH THOSE CHILDREN THE WAY OF THE SWORD.
WE'LL RUN AND KEEP RUNNING.
HABAKI KAGI-MURA.
BUT IT APPEARS... THAT I'VE LEFT SOME UNFINISHED BUSINESS IN THIS LAND.

THE RINGLEADER OF THE GROUP THAT CAUSED A PANIC BY ASSAULTING EDO CASTLE WHILE I WAS GONE...
HOW DARE YOU SPEAK OF YOURSELF AS IF YOU WERE A VICTIM.
YOU ARE THE ONLY ONE I'VE COME TO KILL TODAY.

WE ARE NOT SIMPLY A GROUP OF EXTREMISTS ATTEMPTING TO TAKE OUT OUR PENT-UP RESENTMENT BY PUNISHING THE GOVERNMENT.
BUT, LORD HABAKI...
HEH HEH... OF COURSE, YOU'RE RIGHT ABOUT THAT.


NO ONE HAS HAD THE RIGHT TO PUNISH OTHERS FOR THEIR CRIMES.
NO... FROM THE BEGINNING

HE WAS PURSUED BY HIS OWN SUPERIORS AS WELL AS THE AUTHORITIES... ALL IN ALL, HE CUT DOWN MORE THAN ONE HUNDRED OF THEM.
THAT MAN, MANJI...

USING MANJI'S BODY AS THEIR FOUNDATION, THE SHOGUNATE GOVERNMENT SACRIFICED HUNDREDS OF PEOPLE IN IMMORTALITY EXPERIMENTS UNDERNEATH EDO CASTLE.

AT EDO CASTLE, WE OF THE ITTOU-RYUU TURNED MORE THAN ONE HUNDRED MEMBERS OF THE SHOGUNATE GOVERNMENT INTO A MOUNTAIN OF CORPSES.

WE ARE ALREADY IN THE NIRVANA OF GOOD AND EVIL— AM I WRONG?
THOSE WHO PUNISH MURDERERS BECOME MURDERERS THEM-SELVES.

YOU SHOULD HAVE JUST REMAINED SILENT AND BOWED YOUR HEADS.
IT IS THE STATE WHICH DECIDES WHETHER A PERSON IS GOOD OR EVIL.
...YOU'RE WRONG.
!
ARA-SHINO!
KILL THE HUNDRED-MAN-SLAYER AND THE GIRL WITH THE BRAIDS!
.....
ﾅｺﾞｯ

KILLING A HUNDRED MEN, AS WELL AS YOUR OWN SUPERIORS... THOSE OVERWHELMING CRIMES ARE MORE THAN ENOUGH.
YOU WILL BE EXE-CUTED!
ON TOP OF THAT YOU STAND BEFORE US SELF-RIGHTEOUS IN YOUR IMMORTALITY. THIS CANNOT BE PERMITTED.
TOGETHER WITH YOUR COMRADES, YOU INVADED EDO CASTLE AND CUT DOWN COUNTLESS DEFENSELESS SOLDIERS.
A TRULY PREPOSTER-OUS CRIME! YOU WILL BE EXECUTED!
YOU USED GUNPOWDER TO BREACH THE MOAT AND ENTERED THE COMPOUND OF THE SHOGUN'S FAMILY, CONDUCTING YOURSELF IN A TROUBLESOME MANNER.

MITAKE! DOMA! TARIESHIN!
COOPERATE WITH THE SNAKE GROUP TO KILL THAT WOMAN!
!!
IF THAT IS YOUR ORDER...
ズズズ
YOU ASSISTED THE ITTOU-RYUU, TURNED YOUR SWORD AGAINST THE SHOGUNATE, AND INSOLENTLY CUT DOWN TEN LOCAL GUARDS IN AN INSTANT.
TRULY, YOU CAN BE CALLED NOTHING BUT A MAN-EATING FIEND.
YOU WILL BE EXE-CUTED!

...HE TALKS A LOT FOR SOME-ONE WHO'S PLAYING INNOCENT HIMSELF...
ANOTSU KAGE-HISA.
AND FINALLY...
チリリリ!
YOU ARE THE LEADER OF THE ITTOU-RYUU.
FOR THAT ALONE YOU DESERVE TEN THOUSAND DEATHS.
I WILL PUT MY ENTIRE SOUL INTO EXECUTING YOU!

VERY WELL... COME AND DO IT IF YOU CAN.

パン!
!!
...MANJI.

LIVE THROUGH THIS.
THERE ARE A MOUNTAIN OF QUESTIONS I WANT TO ASK YOU.
...YOU SMUG BASTARD.
IT'S YOURSELF YOU SHOULD BE WORRIED ABOUT.

BEFORE LONG, SNOW SCAT-TERS AND DANCES ACROSS THE BATTLE-FIELD.

HAHH
HAHH
HAHH
HAHH

HAHH
HAHH
HAHH
HAHH
HAHH

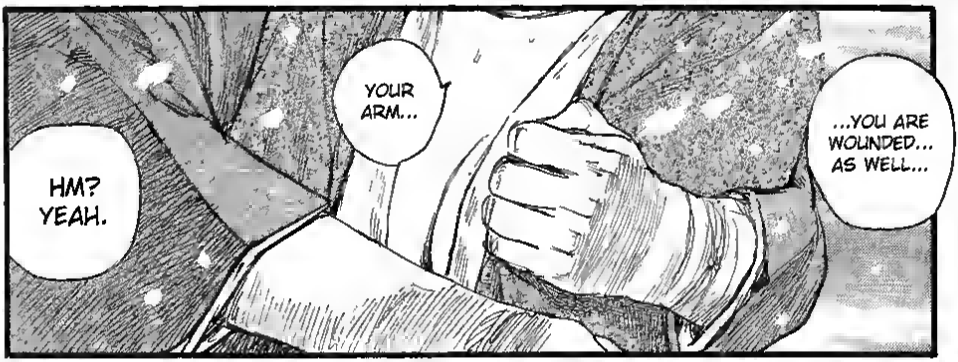
HAA-
HHH...
ZEHH

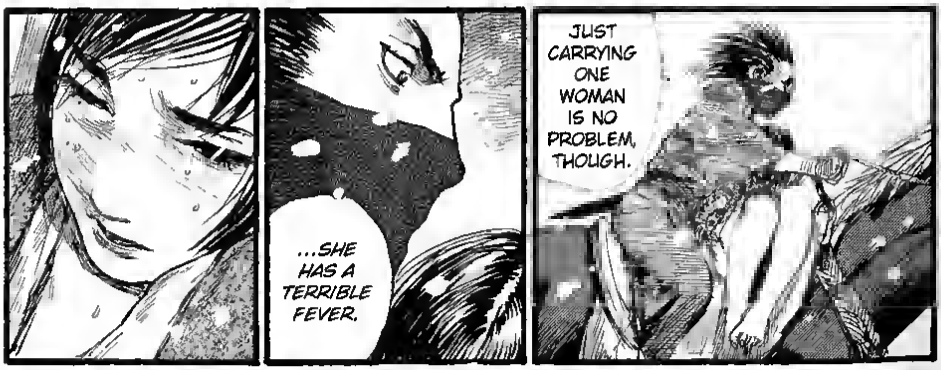
FATHER...
FATHER...

HAA-
HHH...
HAHH
HA...
AH...
UH...
...HEY.

...ARE YOU OKAY?

!? YOU ARE...
.....
...IS THAT SO?
I CAN'T... ACCEPT... YOUR MERCY.
...PLEASE... GO AWAY.
SEE YA.
Hi!

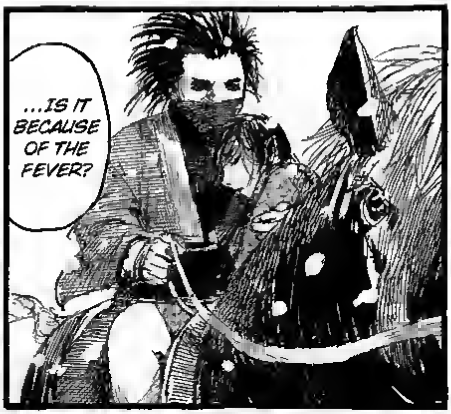

HM? YEAH.
YOUR ARM...
...YOU ARE WOUNDED... AS WELL...


...SHE HAS A TERRIBLE FEVER.
JUST CARRYING ONE WOMAN IS NO PROBLEM, THOUGH.

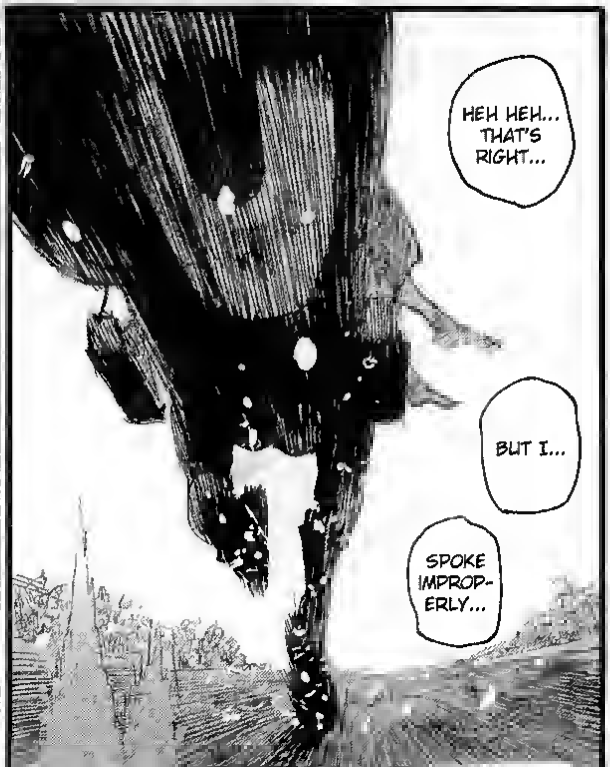
WHAT WAS THAT?
...TAITO.
MAGAT-SU...
...LORD

...I WANT TO... BECOME STRONGER...
TEACH ME THE SWORD...
IF WE BOTH... LIVE THROUGH THIS... PLEASE...

IT'S IMPOSSIBLE
EITHER YOU'LL BE RUINED, OR I WILL BE... IS THAT THE KIND OF JOURNEY THIS IS?


...IS IT BECAUSE OF THE FEVER?

THEN,
YOU SHOULD MAKE A FRESH START...


HEH HEH... THAT'S RIGHT...
BUT I...
SPOKE IMPROP-ERLY...

HERE TOO?
ドッ
!?
CAN I CUT HIM WITH MY SWORD!? THIS BALD-HEADED MONSTER...
JUST WHERE ON HIS BODY...

WHAT IS THAT MAN...?
WHA...
JUST WHERE...
CAN I AIM...?
.....
JUST NOW, MR. MANJI CUT HIM (ONE-SIDEDLY, FOR A CHANGE), BUT...
EVEN THOUGH HE STABBED HIM, HE WASN'T CUT!?
IN THAT CASE...
...HIS HEAD...

ENDURE THIS, FEET...

!!
ワナ
ガ
ガ
ガ
ガ
ガ
ガ

"ONE ON ONE" WAS JUST THE ITTOU-RYUU'S WAY OF DOING THINGS.
NOW THAT I THINK ABOUT IT
...OHH, THAT'S RIGHT!
?

BUT... WHY WOULD A LITTLE GIRL LIKE THIS WANT TO BE CRUSHED BY ME?
Blade of the Immortal Volume 28
End

『無限の住人』第28巻は「アフタヌーン」'11年2月号から6月号、8月号、9月号に掲載された作品を収録しました。

編集部では、この作品に対する皆様のご意見・ご感想をお待ちしております。また、「アフタヌーンKC」にまとめてほしい作品がありましたら、編集部までお知らせください。

〈あて先〉
〒一一二―八〇〇一
東京都文京区音羽二―一二―二一
講談社 アフタヌーン編集部
「アフタヌーンKC」係

なお、お送りいただいたお手紙、おハガキは、ご記入いただいた個人情報を含めて著者にお渡しすることがありますので、あらかじめご了解のうえ、お送りください。

●この作品はフィクションです。実在の人物、団体名等とは関係ありません。

アフタヌーンKC 775

無限の住人 28

二〇一一年十月二十一日 第一刷発行 （定価はカバーに表示してあります。）

著者 沙村広明
©Hiroaki Samura 2011
発行者 清水保雅
発行所 株式会社 講談社
〒一一二―八〇〇一 東京都文京区音羽二―一二―二一
電話 編集部 東京 〇三―五三九五―三四六三
販売部 東京 〇三―五三九五―三六〇八
業務部 東京 〇三―五三九五―三六〇三
印刷所 株式会社廣済堂
本文製版所 豊国印刷株式会社
製本所 株式会社フォーネット社

講談社

●本書のコピー、スキャン、デジタル化等の無断複製は著作権法上での例外を除き禁じられています。本書を代行業者等の第三者に依頼してスキャンやデジタル化することはたとえ個人や家庭内の利用でも著作権法違反です。
●落丁本・乱丁本は購入書店名をご明記のうえ、小社業務部宛にお送りください。送料小社負担にてお取り替えいたします。なお、この本についてのお問い合わせはアフタヌーン編集部宛にお願いいたします。

N.D.C.726 206p 19cm Printed in Japan ISBN978-4-06-310775-3

アフタヌーンKC
講談社